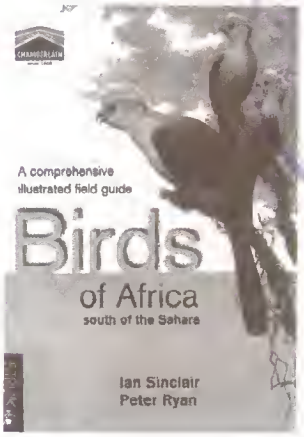
nature net

The NatureKenya Newsletter www.naturekenya.org March 04

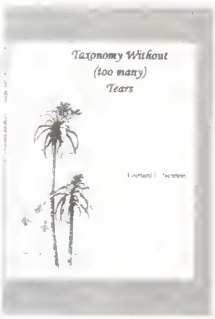
IN THE HOUSE

Books from the Nature Kenya front office



Birds of Africa south of the Sahara
Ian Sinclair & Peter Ryan
Describes and illustrates all the birds found in Africa south of the Sahara Desert, including Socotra, Pemba and the Gulf of Guinea KSH 2750

Kenya Wildlife Service Guide Books available for the following parks and reserves: Aberdares, Tsavo East, Tsavo West, Lake Nakuru, Shimbo Hills, Mt Elgan KSH 750



Taxonomy Without (too many) Tears
Leonard E Newton
Plant taxonomy and some related topics in a style that can be understood by anyone without botanical training KSH 200

FIELD TRIPS

Kingwal Swamp Trip
Fri 12- Sun 14 March 04

Kingwal Swamp is located in Kapsabet and hasts the endangered semi-aquatic antelope, Sitatunga. Please ensure you carry your camping gear (available for hire: sleeping bags @ 200/-, two-person tent @ 400/-).

Charges are 2500/- per person, inclusive of food from dinner Friday to breakfast Sunday and public transport. Pay by Fri 5 March at Nature Kenya front office. Minimum pax: 15

Birding at Mwea
Saturday 27 March 04

Drive to the vicinity of the Mwea Rice Scheme for birdwatching in the area. *Book with 150/- per person by* Wed 24 March at the front office. Bring hat, drinking water and picnic lunch. Don't forget your membership card.

Transport is by car pool and confirmation is reliant on available vehicles.

Fishing Lodge, Aberdares N. Park
20 - 21 March 04

Hikes and birdwalks guided by Dino Martins. Fishing Lodge is self catering and fully equipped. Few rooms available. Bring drinking water and food, 4WD essential and charged smartcard. *Cost* 2500/- by 10 March. *A Kenya Museum Society trip.*

Easter at the Tana
Wed 7 - Tue 13 April 04

A Unique 7 Day Safari via Tsavo East (Bigi Camp) with 2 nights at the Tana Delta (luxury Tana Delta Camp) and then up to the Tana River Primate Reserve (2 nights Mchelelo Camp). Return Nairobi via Tsavo East (Bigi Camp).

With a minimum of 12 pax the cost will be 21,000/- per person exclusive of transport. (We are investigating transport options, but about 10000/-).

Not included in the cost is the KWS fees - bring own charged smart cards - and two meals at stopovers in Malindi. Mchelelo is a basic self catering camp; you may wish to bring your own drinks. Camps have 4 DL tents, with 12 pax we'll be sharing 3 to a tent.

We have very special rates at these camp sites and need to confirm bookings; please book by **Fri 19 March**.

Don't wait - this is an opportunity to get off the beaten track, and see a remote part of the country, and enjoy unique biodiversity. Book now!

East Africa Natural History Society
Annual General Meeting
Thu 13 May '04
4:30 p.m. Louis Leakey Hall
National Museum, Nairobi

For nominations to the Executive Committee *please collect forms at the office*

NATURE KENYA, P. O. Box 44486, 00100 GPO Nairobi Tel: 3749957 / 3746090 Fax: 3741049 E-mail: office@naturekenya.org

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

BirdLife International is a global Partnership, active in 106 countries. The Partners work together on shared priorities, policies and programmes of sustainable development action, exchanging skills, achievements and information, and so growing in ability, authority and influence. The BirdLife International Partnership works with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources in order to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, while promoting social and economic development.

World Bird Conference, 2004

The World Bird Conference is a global BirdLife meeting, held every four years to discuss and adopt strategies, programmes and policies. The conference will be held in Durban, South Africa, and is entitled 'Empowering People for Change'. This global conference will be attended by participants from more than 60 countries who will share experiences, skills and knowledge in sustainable development action.

Paul Matiku, Executive Director, and Solomon Mwangi, the Conservation Programme Manager, will represent Nature Kenya. The Conference will give them a chance to share and disseminate experiences and best practices with other participants, which will help to strengthen Nature Kenyas' capacity in biodiversity conservation.

Member of IUCN The World Conservation Union

Nature Kenya membership of IUCN was approved in December 03.By joining the Union, Nature Kenya becomes part of a democratically governed global alliance of organizations, agencies and governments.

In its role as a global advocate for the environment, IUCN represents the views of its members on the world stage and seeks to influence, encourage and assist societies to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature, and ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

March Sky, from The Safari Star Guide by Alex and Joy MacKay

EVENING SKY

By Ian MacKay and Fleur Ng'weno

Moon, Mar 04

7 March *Full moon*; 14 March *Last quarter* (rises at midnight); 21 March *New moon*; 29 March *First Quarter* (overhead at sunset)

Planets, Mar 04

This month we have a chance to see all the five nearest planets and a moon in our evening sky! They are found along the ecliptic - the part of the sky traveled by the moon and planets. The planets shine by reflecting the light from the sun; so they do not sparkle like the stars.

Looking eastwards first, the brilliont planet Jupiter is rising steadily. Currently it is close to the constellation Leo, the lion. Following the ecliptic till we get straight above, we find Saturn. It is a golden light near the constellation of the Gemini twins.

Turning around and looking northwest, there is Mars. It is a slightly reddish light, not as bright as it was last year. Mars is just above the crescent moon on March 25th. Bright Venus is below Mars, and to the left. After the 24th we will also see Mercury. This small planet is, as always, very low, right on the horizon (directly below the head of the constellation Cetus). Mercury climbs to its highest around the 28th, then sets again.

The Pleiades, a constellation of many stars close together, is nearby (slightly below the Moon on the 25th). The Pleiades are well worth looking at with binoculars; and since the Moon is a crescent the glare will not be so much.

Stars, Mar 04

Many of the brightest stars are straight above us on March evenings: Sirius in Canis Major, Procyon in Canis Minor, and many in the constellation of Orion.

Lower in the sky are other bright stars: Canopus in the south, and Regulus (part of Leo) in the east (near the planet Jupiter in March 04). Capella is in the northwest. The star Algol, in the constellation Perseus, is between Capella and the planet Venus.

Sun, March 04

The equinox is on March 20th. It marks the start of autumn in the southern hemisphere, and of spring in the north.

COURSES

Fundamentals of Ornithology

23 - 30 April 04 Elsamere Field Studies Centre, Lake Naivasha

10 Places remaining

This is an introduction to ornithology, designed for amateur and professional bird guides and birdwatchers who want to improve their understanding of birds and their skills in the field. Teaching is through illustrated lectures, discussion sessions, group seminars, demonstrations and field practicals, in an informal environment.

Fees: Ksh 25,000, which includes full-board accommodation, transport to and from Naivasha and during field outings, course materials, fees, equipment, and teaching expenses.

Applicants must have some experience of birding and education up to KCSE level. Send application to the Course Coordinator at Nature Kenya with a non-refundable deposit of 12,500/-.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, **i.e.21 March**. The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

TREE WALK

Guided Tree Walks in the Arboretum on the second Saturday and last Monday, i.e. **13 & 29 March from 9:30 a.m.** Meet at the Arboretum gate. *Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. *Those who are nat members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.*

ARABUKO-SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides' Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **6 March, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person. KWS fees may now apply (100/- Citizens, 500/- Residents)

FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month, i.e. **20 March** Please call Marlene Reid on (041) 491 648 to confirm

Ngong Road Forest Walks (Nairobi)

The Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust Nature walks are held on the first and third Saturdays of the month i.e. **6 & 20 March, at 9:00 a.m.** Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecourse.

Lake Victoria Sunset Birders (Kisumu)

The Lake Victoria Sunset Birders are a Nature Kenya Site Support Group and organise bird walks at sites in and around Kisumu every Friday of the month. For further details call 035 42952 or email wck@vicweb.net

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any loss, injury, death or damage to property.

Editor, Catherine Ngarachu

ABSORBER ... THE SOLUTION FOR DROUGHT CONDITIONS

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CLASSIFIEDS

Reach over 1000 members by advertising in Nature Net

A Lark in the Park

E.A. Kennel Club Showground
12 noon, 6th March 04

Fundraising for charities by the East African Women's League (Burnbrae Branch)

An afternoon of musical entertainment
Hootenanny, Kayamba Singers and many more

Entrance: 500/- per adult, children under 12 free Camp chairs, tables & picnics welcome

Sokoke Cats

Would you like to own a unique Sokoke Cat?

There are very few of these domestic cats in the world, but Sokokes are winning championships at shows in Europe! Look them up on the Internet www.sokoke.dk/kenya

A few kittens are available at Ksh 5000 from Jeannie Knocker, P. O. Box 77 WATAMU Tel: 042 32465 Email:corncon@africaonline.co.ke

Kinangop Guest House

Perched on the Kinangop Plateau with incredible views across the Rift Valley, the farm combines tussock-grass pasture, indigenous forest, and attractive gardens. The guesthouse is comfortable and fully furnished. Visitors can enjoy hikes and walks on the farm or go further afield with local guides.

For more information, brochure and non-member rates please contact Nature Kenya.

Guest House rates: Day visit 350/-

MEMBER nos	Overnight	Weekend
1 to 2	4000/-	6500/-
3	4,900/-	7,400/-
4	5,800/-	8,300/-

Ta imprave cammunicatian amang Kenyan birders and athers wha are interested in Kenya's birds, the Bird Cammittee af Nature Kenya established this email graup. It is a taal for infarming members an interesting bird sightings and abservatians of unusuol and rore birds, os well as publicising news about birding activities to be held in the cauntry.

This list is o membership-restricted list, since we wauld like ta avaid subscribing persons who might send messoges that are not in agreement with the scope of the list. Records thot will oppeor in this list will be filtered and then transferred ta the Recards Sub-Cammittee by the graup maderatar.

Ta sign up far KENYABIRDSNET, send on emoil ta kenyabirdnet_mad@yahaa.com and soy who you ore and where you heard af the e-group. Pleose fill in the Subject line.

Ta learn mare abaut KENYABIRDSNET mailing graup, please visit http://groups.yahoo.cam/graup/kenyobirdsnet

Bird Hotline
3749957/ 3746090

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver *L. Bagoria/Jan* Ben Mugambi & Mark Smith
African Cuckoo Hawk *Upper Hill, Noirobi/ Jan* Fleur Ng'weno
Common Teal *Thika Sewage Pands./Jon* Waterbirds Counts
Buff-spotted Flufftail *Pair at Mauntain Ladge/Jon* Mel Ogola
Grosshopper Buzzard *Naivasha & Gilgil/ Jan Itoi* Shanni & Bill Clark

Other sightings

Speckled Sond Snake *Olorgesaille/ Jan* Shoilesh Potel & Elizobeth Homilton

The final waterbird counts were held the lost weekend af January at L.Magadi. We hod orrived eorly ot the Olorgesaille Prehistoric Site for an overnight stay, and as we had lunch, We naticed samething maving on a bush obove the water paint where the birds came to drink, next to the lunch bondo.

It was a snake abaut 1-1.5 m long with long black & yellow stripes ond on oronge heod. It was woiting for o meol ot the woter point. An immature Red-headed Rock Agama came for a drink ond the snake gave chase, but the Agama wos too quick on four legs. The snoke, on on empty stamach, returned to the some bush to awoit another meal.

TALKS & VIDEOS

Changing Social and Cultural Perspectives in Modern Kenyan Society ***John Sibi-Okumu***

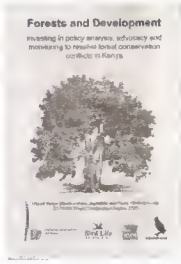
Thu 25 March '04 6:30 p.m. Louis Leakey Hall, National Museum, Nairobi

KMS Evening Programme

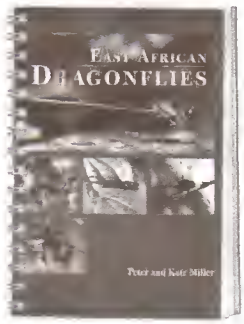
Mr. Sibi-Okumu is an educator and social commentator, widely knawn for his provocative televisian programme *The Summit*. Members 300/- Non-members 350/- Child 100/-

Books continued from front page

The Bird Song of Kenya and Tanzania
Jahn Hammick
A CD with 99 species recarded an safari KSH 900



Forests and Development
Editar D L Manzalillo Nightingale
An analysis af issues, actians, policy and legislatian that affect farests in Kenya taday KSH 400



East African Dragonflies
Peter and Kate Miller
Illustroted biological text, photos of common species, suggestians far reseorch, glossary ond identificotian key and species list KSH 2000

Mida Creek and Arabuko Sokoke Forest Honey
Kipepeo Project
KSH 200

Nature *Kenya*

Membership form

Yes! *Start* *Renew* *my Nature Kenya membership*

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(**OPTIONAL** - but useful to us in planning)
Occupation
Age Bracket (tick) under 21( ) 21-35( ) 36-50( ) over 50( )
Country of Origin
Would you like us to share your contacts Yes/ NO

For Official Use Only Sub No. Recpt. No.
Mode Due Date Recpt Date

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	**Ksh Per Year**	**Enter Amount**
Full	800	
Sponsor	**3000**	
Family	1000	
Pensioners	300	
Students (Full time & undergraduate)	300	
Institutional (Libraries, schools, clubs)	1000	
Corporate (check with the office)		
ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS		
Kenya Birds **(please tick if you would like to receive this Bird magazine)**	*Free of charge*	
Journal of E.A. Natural History	1000	
Scopus (Ornithological Journal)	500	
World Birdwatch (the BirdLife International magazine)	1500	
Succulenta East Africa	400	
Friends of Nairobi Arboretum		
Single - 400/-, Student - 250/-, School or Club - 800/-		
DONATIONS ***Help us to do even more!***	5000/ 8000/ Other	
Total		

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